

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a sheet-shaped body in which a powder particle layer is sandwiched between a base sheet to which a bonding agent is applied and a covering sheet so as to be bonded into an integral body, comprising:

supplying powder particles from a source container into a concave groove of a face of a temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller, wherein the supplied powder particles form the powder particle layer;

holding the powder particle layer onto the temporary receiving roller with a guide member extending over an arc length of the temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller;

shifting the powder particle layer along a first path including a first path first portion encompassing an arc face portion of the temporary receiving roller;

shifting the base sheet ~~being held on a receiving and transferring roller face~~ along a second path including a second path first portion, wherein at the second path first portion the base sheet is moved between a receiving and

transferring roller and the temporary receiving roller making contact with the powder particle layer on the temporary receiving roller;

~~supplying powder particles to a concave groove of a temporary receiving roller face to form the powder particle layer;~~

~~transferring the powder particle layer onto the base sheet as the base sheet is moved to the second path first portion during rotation of both the receiving and transferring roller and the temporary receiving roller; which is held on the receiving and transferring roller face such that an area of the base sheet contacting said receiving and transferring roller face is larger than an area of the base sheet contacting said temporary receiving roller face, while shifting the powder particle layer held on said temporary receiving roller face; and~~

~~shifting the covering sheet along a third path while in a held state on the contact-bond fixing roller; and~~

~~bonding the base sheet, the powder particle layer and the covering sheet into an integral form while shifting the covering sheet in a held state on a contact-bond fixing roller face; on the third path during rotation of the contact-bond fixing roller; and~~

~~wherein the powder particle layer being is shifted along the first path first portion~~ at a shifting speed that is less than respective shifting speeds of the base sheet along the second path and the covering sheet along the third path, such that

the powder particle layer transferred onto the base sheet is formed into a linear shape or a blurred pattern in a shifting direction.

2. (Previously presented) The method for manufacturing the sheet-shaped body according to claim 1, wherein

the process for transferring the powder particle layer onto the base sheet includes shifting the powder particle layer in a same direction as the base sheet.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method for manufacturing the sheet-shaped body according to claim 1, wherein

~~the process for transferring the powder particle layer onto the base sheet and the process for bonding the covering sheet are carried out on a same roller face.~~

wherein the base sheet is moved between the receiving and transferring roller and the contact-bond fixing roller at a second path second portion downstream of the second path first portion; and

wherein the base sheet, the powder particle layer and the covering sheet are bonded into the integral form in a region where the second path and third path

overlap during rotation of both the receiving and transferring roller and the contact-bond fixing roller.

5. (Previously presented) The method for manufacturing the sheet-shaped body according to claim 1, wherein
the powder particle layer is constituted by an absorbent resin particle layer.

6-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) A method for manufacturing a disposable absorbent article, wherein
the sheet-shaped body manufactured by the manufacturing method according to claim 5 is sandwiched between a liquid-permeable top sheet and a liquid-impermeable back sheet to be bonded into an integral form so that the disposable absorbent article is produced.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) The method for manufacturing the sheet-shaped body according to claim 1, wherein

the process for transferring the powder particle layer onto the base sheet and the process for bonding the covering sheet are carried out on the receiving and transferring roller face.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) The method for manufacturing the sheet-shaped body according to claim 1, wherein

the process for transferring the powder particle layer onto the base sheet includes sealing an opening of the concave groove with a guide member such that the powder particle layer is enclosed inside the concave groove.

20. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a sheet-shaped body in which a powder particle layer is sandwiched between a base sheet to which a bonding agent is applied and a covering sheet so as to be bonded into an integral body, comprising:

supplying powder particles from a source container into a concave groove of a face of a temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller, wherein the supplied powder particles form the powder particle layer;

holding the powder particle layer onto the temporary receiving roller with a guide member extending over an arc length of the temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller;

shifting the powder particle layer along a first path including a first path first portion encompassing an arc face portion of the temporary receiving roller;

~~shifting the base sheet being held on a receiving and transferring roller face of a receiving and transferring roller; along a second path including a second path first portion, wherein at the second path first portion the base sheet is moved between a receiving and transferring roller and the temporary receiving roller;~~

~~supplying powder particles to a concave groove of a temporary receiving roller face to form the powder particle layer;~~

~~transferring the powder particle layer onto the base sheet as the base sheet is moved to the second path first portion during rotation of both the receiving and transferring roller and the temporary receiving roller; which is held on the receiving and transferring roller face such that an area of the base sheet contacting said receiving and transferring roller face is larger than an area of the base sheet contacting said temporary receiving roller face, while shifting the powder particle layer held on said temporary receiving roller face; and~~

shifting the covering sheet along a third path while in a held state on the contact-bond fixing roller; and

bonding the base sheet, the powder particle layer and the covering sheet into an integral form ~~while shifting the covering sheet in a held state on a contact-bond fixing roller face,~~ on the third path during rotation of the contact-bond fixing roller, a surface peripheral velocity of the temporary receiving roller being less than respective peripheral velocities of the contact-bond fixing roller and the receiving and transferring roller, such that the powder particle layer transferred onto the base sheet is formed into a linear shape or a blurred pattern in a shifting direction.

21. (Previously presented) The method for manufacturing the sheet-shaped body according to claim 20, wherein the temporary receiving roller has a generally circular side profile.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a sheet-shaped body in which a powder particle layer is sandwiched between a base sheet to

which a bonding agent is applied and a covering sheet so as to be bonded into an integral body, ~~the method~~ comprising:

shifting the base sheet ~~which is wound partially around a receiving and transfer face of a receiving and transferring roller by rotation of said receiving and transfer roller;~~ along a second path including a second path first portion, wherein at the second path first portion the base sheet is moved between a receiving and transferring roller and the temporary receiving roller;

supplying powder particles to at least one concave groove in a temporary receiving roller face of a temporary receiving roller facing said receiving and transfer roller, said powder particles being shifted while being held in a layer state as a powder particle layer within said at least one groove by rotation of said temporary receiving roller in a direction opposite to said receiving and transferring roller;

holding the powder particle layer onto the temporary receiving roller with a guide member extending over an arc length of the temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller;

shifting the powder particle layer along a first path including a first path first portion encompassing an arc face portion of the temporary receiving roller;

transferring the powder particle layer held in said at least one groove onto the base sheet ~~which which is held on the receiving and transferring roller face~~

~~such that an area of the base sheet contacting said receiving and transferring roller face is larger than an area of the base sheet contacting said temporary receiving roller face; and while shifting the powder particle layer held on said temporary receiving roller face; and~~ as the base sheet is moved to the second path first portion during rotation of both the receiving and transferring roller and the temporary receiving roller;

shifting the covering sheet along a third path while in a held state on the contact-bond fixing roller; and

~~bonding the base sheet, the powder particle layer transferred onto the base sheet and the covering sheet into an integral form~~ on the third path during rotation of the contact-bond fixing roller in a direction opposite to rotation of said receiving and transferring roller, while shifting the covering sheet which is wound partially around a contact face of a contact-bond fixing roller facing said receiving and transferring roller by rotation of said contact-bond fixing roller in a direction opposite to said receiving and transferring roller; a surface peripheral rotational velocity of the temporary receiving roller being less than respective surface peripheral velocities of the contact-bond fixing roller and the receiving and transferring roller such that the powder particle layer transferred onto the base sheet is formed into a linear shape or a blurred pattern in a direction of shifting of the base sheet.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising scraping with a scraping member excess powder particle capacity from a passing portion of the concave groove as the passing portion moves past the scraping member, wherein the scraping member is distinct from the guide member.

26. (New) A method for manufacturing a sheet-shaped body in which a powder particle layer having a first thickness is sandwiched between a base sheet to which a bonding agent is applied and a covering sheet so as to be bonded into an integral body, comprising:

rotating in a first direction a receiving and transferring roller that is located adjacent to each of a temporary receiving roller, a press contact roller, and a contact-bond fixing roller, wherein a first contact region occurs where the receiving and transferring roller is in nearest adjacency to the temporary receiving roller, a second contact region occurs where the receiving and transferring roller is in nearest adjacency to the press contact roller, and a bonding region occurs where the receiving and transferring roller is in nearest adjacency to the contact-bond fixing roller;

rotating the temporary receiving roller in a second direction opposite the first direction;

rotating the press contact roller in the second direction;

rotating the contact-bond fixing roller in the second direction;

receiving powder particles into a concave groove of a face of the temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller, wherein the supplied powder particles form the powder particle layer;

holding the supplied powder particles onto the temporary receiving roller with a guide member extending over an arc length of the temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller as the powder particle layer is moved into the first contact region;

shifting the base sheet along a first path, encompassing in order the first contact region, second contact region, and bonding region, wherein at least from the first contact region to the second contact region and then to the bonding region, the base sheet conforms to a shape of a face of the receiving and transferring roller;

transferring the supplied powder particles from the temporary receiving roller layer onto the base sheet while the base sheet and supplied powder particles are in the first contact region, wherein said receiving and transferring roller and said temporary receiving roller have a closest spacing in the first contact region

that allows the base sheet on the receiving and transferring roller to make contact with the powder particle layer that is still on the temporary receiving roller;

shifting the covering sheet along a third path, encompassing in order said second contact region and said bonding region; and

press contacting the covering sheet to the base sheet and powder particle layer in the second contact region, wherein said receiving and transferring roller and said press contact roller have a closest spacing in the second contact region that allows the base sheet with transferred powder particle layer on the receiving and transferring roller to make contact with a portion of the covering sheet having a shape conforming to a shape of a face of the press contact layer; and

bonding the base sheet, the powder particle layer and the covering sheet into an integral form in the bonding region, wherein said receiving and transferring roller and said contact-bond fixing roller have a closest spacing in the bonding region that allows the base sheet, transferred powder particle layer, and covering sheet to be pressed between the contact-bond fixing roller and the receiving and transferring roller to form said integral form;

wherein the powder particle layer is moved by the temporary receiving roller into the first contact region at a shifting speed that is less than respective shifting speeds of the base sheet by the receiving and transferring roller and the covering sheet along the third path, such that the powder particle layer transferred

onto the base sheet is formed into a linear shape or a blurred pattern in a shifting direction.